

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2 and 5-12 are pending. Claims 1-2 and 5-8 are currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled. Claims 9-12 are added. No new matter has been added.

Response to Objections

The Examiner has objected to the oath or declaration as defective. Applicant respectfully submits that the statement “material to examination” in the previously submitted declaration/oath is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a). Applicant respectfully submits that, as provided by 35 U.S.C §131, the Director shall cause an *examination of an application* and the alleged invention to be made to determine that the applicant is *entitled to a patent under the law* (i.e., determine patentability of the application); and if on such examination it appears that the applicant is entitled to a patent under the law, the Director shall issue a patent thereof. See 35 U.S.C. §131, emphasis added. As such, the *examination* of an application is used to determine *patentability* of an application. By implication, the statement “material to examination” is sufficient language to satisfy the requirement that the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be “material to patentability” as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, since *examination* is used to determine *patentability* of an application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that “material to examination” is sufficient, and respectfully requests that the objection to the oath/declaration be withdrawn.

The specification stands objected to because the specification refers to the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification has been amended to correct the informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaudenzi. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1, 2, 5, and 9-13

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaudenzi. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference because Gaudenzi does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A manufacturing method for obtaining improved a component for gas turbines, comprising:

performing dispersion of powders in a predefined manner on the component so as to expose metal surfaces in a designated zone of the component to the powder in suitable concentrations, wherein the dispersion allows fixing to the metal surfaces in the designated zone;
and

producing internal bodies by microfusion or mechanical machining; and

forming an interface with the internal bodies in the designated zone of the component. (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 requires performing dispersion of powders in a predefined manner on the component so as to expose metal surfaces in a designated zone of the component to the powder in suitable concentrations. Applicant respectfully submits that Gaudenzi fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

Gaudenzi is directed to a turbine blade or vane for use with high temperature pressure fluids, including a metal foot portion for attachment to a rotor or stator ring, and a working portion carried by an extending from the foot portion. Gaudenzi, col. 1, lines 15-223. The working portion is a fritted mixture of metal and ceramic powders, and the metal content of the blade decreases as the distance from the foot portion increases. Gaudenzi, col. 1, lines 38-45. Although the working portion includes metal and ceramic powders, the working portion is made by a fritted mixture (i.e., a fused or partially fused material used in making porcelain, glazes, or enamels), nothing in Gaudenzi discloses

performing dispersion of powders. Also, nothing in Gaudenzi discloses performing dispersion of powders in a predefined manner on the component so as to expose metal surfaces in a designated zone of the component to allow fixing to metal surfaces in the designated zone. As such, Gaudenzi fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Given that claims 2, 5, and 9-11 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 5, and 9-11 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2, 5, and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CLAIMS 6-8 and 12

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaudenzi. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference because Gaudenzi does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 6, as amended, recites:

A component for gas turbines, comprising:

an interface with internal bodies in a designated zone of the component, wherein the internal bodies are produced by microfusion or mechanical machining,

wherein the component is obtained by means of at least one process involving powder sintering or powder metallurgy with dispersion of said powders, wherein the dispersion is performed in a predefined manner on the component so as to expose metal surfaces in a designated zone of the component to the powder in suitable concentrations, and

wherein the dispersion allows fixing to the metal surfaces in the designated zone. (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 requires an interface with internal bodies, produced by microfusion or mechanical machining, in a designated zone of the component. Applicant respectfully submits that Gaudenzi fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

As described above, Gaudenzi discloses a turbine blade or vane for use with high temperature pressure fluids, including a metal foot portion for attachment to a rotor or

stator ring, and a working portion carried by an extending from the foot portion. Gaudenzi, col. 1, lines 15-223. Nothing in Gaudenzi discloses that the turbine blade includes an interface with internal bodies, produced by microfusion or mechanical machining, in a designated zone of the turbine blade. As such, Gaudenzi fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference.

Given that claims 7-8 and 12 depend from independent claim 6, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 7-8 and 12 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 7-8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

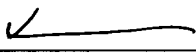
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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